

Message Text

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67

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 OMB-01 SAJ-01 NIC-01 CU-04 A-01

OPR-02 SY-10 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /166 W

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R 121545Z MAR 74

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2730

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

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3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, GR

SUBJECT: KANELLOPOULOS APPEAL ON BEHALF STUDENTS

REF: ATHENS 1088

1. SUMMARY: FORMER PRIME MINISTER KANELLOPOULOS RELEASED STATEMENT DATED MARCH 8, APPEALING GOG TO "END TRAGEDY OF UNKNOWN NUMBER OF YOUTHS" WHO ARRESTED, HIDING OR HAVE DISAPPEARED SINCE NOVEMBER 25. ALTHOUGH IT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED HERE, AND HAS NOT BEEN PICKED UP YET BY FOREIGN NEWS MEDIA, WE BELIEVE STATEMENT WILL GAIN CURRENCY OPPOSITION CIRCLES BOTH BECAUSE OF ITS THEME AND BECAUSE ANY PUBLISHED COMMENT BY POLITICIANS IN GREECE IS RARITY NOWADAYS. END SUMMARY.

2. ONE-PAGE KANELLOPOULOS STATEMENT SAID MANY STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES UNDERGOING MORAL AFFLICTION BECAUSE "THE BLOODY CHAPTER OF THE LATTER PART OF LAST NOVEMBER NOT ONLY DID NOT END WITH AN EXPLICIT AND SINCERELY DETAILED ACCOUNT ABOUT THE TRAGIC VICTIMS -- ALL OF WHOM BELONGED TO ONE SIDE -- BUT MANY STUDENTS OF BOTH SEXES HAVE SINCE THEN BEEN ARRESTED OR ARE

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OBLIGED TO HIDE OUT." HE WENT ON TO CHIDE GOG FOR LIMITING ITS

ONLY EXPLANATORY STATEMENT ABOUT STUDENT SCENE TO ONE ANNOUNCEMENT (REFTEL) BOASTING OF DISBANDING EXTREME LEFT CONSPIRACY (ANTI-DICTATORIAL EFEE), EVEN THOUGH "WITHIN 24 HOURS MANY OF THESE YOUTHS, WHO HAD BEEN PUBLICLY STIGMATIZED AS HAVING COMMITTED A GRAVE CRIME OR WERE CONSIDERED EXTREMELY DANGEROUS, WERE SET FREE WHILE OTHERS...THEIR NUMBERS AND THEIR NAMES UNPUBLICIZED REMAIN IN JAIL OR PERHAPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO YIAROS." HE ENDED STATEMENT WITH APPEAL FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION IN HIS CAPACITY AS FORMER UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND BECAUSE "HUMANITARIAN REASONS OBLIGE ME TO FORGET MY CAPACITY OF POLITICAL LEADER WHICH WOULD GIVE ME RIGHT TO USE STRONGER LANGUAGE."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS KANELLOPOULOS' MOST EXPLICIT APPEAL ON BEHALF STUDENTS SINCE BEFORE FALL OF PAPADOPOULOS. IN JANUARY HE SPOKE OUT IN BEHALF POLITICAL PRISONERS GENERALLY AND IN DECEMBER LAST YEAR HE CRITICIZED NEW REGIME FOR CREATING ANXIETY THROUGH LACK OF POSITIVE STEPS. ALL STATEMENTS MARKED BY CIRCUMSPECTION INCLUDING CURRENT ONE.

4. TWO FORMER CENTER UNION MINISTERS HAVE RECENTLY TOLD US THERE IS AN UNDERSTANDING AMONG CU AND ERE PARTY LEADERS TO LIMIT OVERT CRITICISM OF THIS REGIME BECAUSE OF GENUINE ANTICIPATION OF ITS EVOLUTION WITHIN YEAR TOWARD CIVILIAN/ELECTIVE GOVERNMENT. THIS MAY BE WHY KANELLOPOULOS IN HIS STATEMENT EMPHASIZED HE WAS SPEAKING OUT ON BEHALF STUDENTS AS A FORMER PROFESSOR AND NOT AS PARTY LEADER. WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVES, AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS PERSONAL EMOTIONS SUCH AS FEAR AND FRUSTRATION ARE PROBABLY INTERTWINED, WE OBSERVE THAT MANY FORMER POLITICIANS HAVE OF LATE LOST THEIR ZEST FOR BATTLE WITH THE GOG AND RESTRAINED THEIR HERETOFORE ACTIVE PENCHANT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT.
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